

Filed for intro on 03/12/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 124
By Harwell

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Junior Leagues of Tennessee on the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the Association of Junior Leagues International is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism; and

WHEREAS, the 296 Junior Leagues throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Great Britain have a collective membership of more than 193,000; and

WHEREAS, in 1901, Mary Harriman, a 19-year-old college student from a socially prominent family, founded the first Junior League in New York City, to involve those more fortunate in helping people in need; and

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WHEREAS, in 1921, thirty Junior Leagues joined to form the Association of Junior Leagues International to collectively advance their work; and

WHEREAS, in 1930, the Junior League formed its first State Public Affairs Committee, now known as the Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee, to influence public welfare policy; and

WHEREAS, Junior Leagues provide hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours every year to address issues in their local communities, including: child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, affordable day care, pregnancy prevention, substance abuse prevention, HIV/AIDS education, breast cancer awareness, school readiness, and literacy; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Leagues of Tennessee represent the collective membership of Bristol, Chattanooga, Johnson City, Kingsport, Knoxville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, and Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the organization boasts a membership of more than 6,500 members and annual community contributions in excess of \$2.35 million; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Leagues of Tennessee's exemplary community service projects include *Music in the Meadow* symphony concerts in Bristol; *Eating Disorder Awareness* in Chattanooga; the *Children's Advocacy Center* for child sexual abuse victims in Johnson City; the *Joy Baker Center* parenting program and daycare facility in Knoxville; the *Hope House* day care center for children affected with Aids in Memphis; the *Children's Discovery Center* promoting multiculturalism, acceptance, and tolerance in Murfreesboro; and the *Renewal House* residential recovery community for addicted mothers and their children in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Leagues of Tennessee Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee is a state level coalition formed and owned by the Junior Leagues of Tennessee to facilitate networking, coordinate information and research, promote awareness, and advocate on issues of shared interest; and

WHEREAS, the organization's current program emphasis is breast and cervical cancer awareness and prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League is committed to supporting efforts to reduce the mortality rates of breast and cervical cancer through health education programs and strategies which educate women on early detection methods, increase access to appropriate health care services, reduce the social and financial barriers to screening for women of all ages, and encourage funding for research into the causes and cures of this disease; and

WHEREAS, past and current notable members of the Junior League include Eleanor Roosevelt, Betty Ford, Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush, and Sandra Day O'Connor; and

WHEREAS, illustrious members of the Junior Leagues of Tennessee include Judge Shirley Underwood, Martha Ingram, and our own Representative Beth Harwell; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor and commend this excellent community-focused, volunteer training organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend the officers and members of the Junior Leagues of Tennessee and the organization's Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee on the occasion of the Junior League's 100th anniversary, reflecting with deep appreciation on their numerous contributions to their community, state, and country. We wish them much continued success in all of their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.